

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express the current commitment and activities of KBZQ-FM on the subject of localism in Lawton/Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

In the past, currently, and in the foreseeable future, KBZQ has, is, and will continue to base our programming decisions on the needs of the Lawton/Fort Sill community.

Several items are listed below as expressions of our past and current commitment to localism.

1. Numerous broadcasts have been dedicated to the purpose of addressing local public affairs. Examples include daily broadcast of Lawton Crime stoppers "Crime of the Week", public service announcements of activities and organizations serving issue oriented needs in the local community. Live and pre-recorded interviews have aired in all day parts, including morning and afternoon drive, of public officials and community leaders on a variety of topics of interest to the continued well being and the community development of Lawton/Fort Sill.

2. KBZQ has, and will continue to consider local needs in the creation and selection of music programming. Our primary format is Adult Contemporary music. We currently monitor a variety of music charts in the selection of the music we broadcast, however we also consider local needs in the selection of artists played. One example is our decision to discontinue airplay of music released by "The Dixie Chicks" after public comments made by one of the members of the group in early 2003 about President George Bush that created the impression here of a lack of support for our troops. Although we felt strongly that "The Dixie Chicks" certainly had the right to express their views, we felt that the majority of our listeners in Lawton/Fort Sill considered their comments to have a negative effect on the morale of service men and women stationed here at Fort Sill, one of the army's largest training installations.

In addition, we have broadcast a weekly jazz program for several years because listeners have requested it. A station formatted for jazz programming does not exist here. We also broadcast a 4 hour weekly Spanish music program, again because it was requested by people right here in Lawton/Fort Sill.

3. On numerous occasions we have pre-empted programming for local and national emergencies. The most recent occasion was in May of this year, when tornadoes were spotted on radar moving into Lawton/Fort Sill. We interrupted our programming several times to broadcast tornado warnings issued by the National Weather Service specific to Lawton/Fort Sill. This practice has consistently been the case throughout our tenure here.

On September 11, 2001 and for several days thereafter we pre-empted music and commercial programming for continuous coverage of events arising out of the attacks on our nation that day. Our decision was again based on what we felt was best for Lawton/Fort Sill.

4. The commitment of KBZQ to local cultural, and civic programming is also demonstrated in hourly broadcast of information on the activities and events of such organizations as the Lawton Community Theatre, Cameron University's performing arts and music departments, The United Way, Native American cultural events and activities, local elementary, junior high, and senior high special cultural events, Blue Moon Productions, The Lawton Fort Sill Community Band, and others.

5. KBZQ also broadcasts information in regular day parts on a variety of local community activities dedicated to the improvement of health, and well being. We have and will continue to feature numerous live and pre-recorded broadcasts informing our listeners about events and activities focused on local health concerns, such as Breast Cancer awareness, childhood obesity, education and development of children, cardiovascular health, the local blood supply, and many other health related topics.

Public safety issues such as local road construction projects, school closings, traffic delays due to road hazards and weather conditions are also the subject of numerous live and pre-recorded broadcasts.

6. KBZQ also broadcasts human interest topics specific to Lawton/Fort Sill. Examples include deployments and returns of soldiers stationed at Fort Sill, local activities of leisure activities and special events such as bike rides through the Wichita mountains, various run/walk fundraiser events, golf tournament fundraisers, AMBUC's fundraisers, VFW activities and fundraisers, and a variety of information on local events that are simply recreational in nature.

In summary, the needs of our local community are an integral part of the programming heard on KBZQ because it is one very important way that we connect with our listeners, rather than simply entertaining them. We have received numerous awards, plaques, phone calls, and written communications, expressing appreciation for our commitment to the betterment of our community. We believe that our commitment to making Lawton/Fort Sill a better place to live is a critical part of our mission as broadcasters.

We count it to be a privilege to serve Lawton/Fort Sill as we broadcast local information on a variety of topics, addressing a variety of needs. We do it cheerfully because it is part of what makes broadcasting a fulfilling and enjoyable venture.

I believe that new rules for serving local interests and needs are unnecessary. I hope that after reading this summary about the commitment of KBZQ to localism that you will agree that further study or regulation is unnecessary. I stand with many other broadcasters today to encourage you to suspend further discussion for the purpose of drafting regulations intended to strengthen localism. I believe that broadcasters already do an outstanding job in this area.

Sincerely,

Charles Pettigrew
Program Director
KBZQ-FM
Lawton, Oklahoma